

part of his body was temporarily paralyzed. Narrowly missing being shot by a firing squad, he became a war prisoner for more than 9 months. Captain Macon is quoted as saying, "It was the greatest feeling in the world, seeing them tear down the swastika and raising the stars and stripes." That feeling was tempered when he returned home on a troop ship at Boston Harbor. There he was greeted by the grim reality that African Americans still had a long way to go. At the end of the gangplank were two directional signs: white go this way and colored go this way," he said. "Uh huh, the war is just starting." Captain Macon's decorations include the Air Medal, Presidential Citation and Purple Heart. He retired with the rank of Captain.

Macon's life itself is a lesson in how to succeed but Richard Macon's desire to teach others led him to acquire a master's degree and join the ranks of public education, teaching at the high school level at Northern High School and progressing to the level of principal and personnel administration in his later years. He was a truly caring person who enjoyed helping others and believed in education as a means of bettering oneself. We will remember him as an officer, a gentleman, a teacher, and a leader amongst men of greatness.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I along with my colleague Congressman COSTA, would like to recognize the City of Bakersfield Fire Department on 130 years of excellent service to the residents of Bakersfield, Kern County, and the surrounding area in the Central Valley of California. Congressman COSTA and I both represent the City of Bakersfield and are extremely supportive and proud of the Bakersfield Fire Department.

In 1868, Colonel Thomas Baker moved into the Central Valley and settled near the present-day intersection of Truxtun Avenue and R Street. Recognized as a good neighbor, Colonel Baker would help people fight fires using buckets, a hand-drawn hook and ladder truck, and several hand-drawn two wheeled hose carts.

In 1877, the City of Bakersfield Fire Department was officially formed, relying first on hand-drawn and eventually on horse-drawn carts. Today, the Bakersfield Fire Department consists of 13 fire stations, uses modern equipment and has 13 engine companies. The department employs 183 professionally trained and sworn firefighters and 25 dedicated civilians. In fact, the Central Fire Station, which was constructed in 1939, is still in operation today.

What started in 1877 as a group of residents who wanted to keep their developing town safe from fires is now a professional, disciplined, and elite force that serves and protects more than 300,000 people and has a primary jurisdiction of more than 83,000 acres. In addition to its primary responsibilities in Bakersfield, the Fire Department also provides support services to neighboring jurisdictions in

the event of natural disasters, forest fires, and other emergencies.

My family and I have a history fighting fires in the area. My father, Owen, was an Assistant Chief for the Bakersfield Fire Department. My uncle, Tom, was the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department. Like my uncle, I also worked for the Kern County Fire Department as a Seasonal Firefighter.

For well over a century, the City of Bakersfield Fire Department has been fighting the area's fires, earning these firefighter professionals the respect and admiration of a grateful community. It is a singular person who races into burning buildings at risk of life and limb to save the lives of fellow human beings, and to drive with sirens wailing towards disaster areas to provide vital emergency and recovery services, when others are evacuating. Congressman COSTA and I are fortunate that the City that we both represent is protected by our brave firefighters. The Bakersfield Fire Department, through the service of its current and former employees, has exemplified dedication to service in the Bakersfield area for the past 130 years. I am honored to recognize the Bakersfield Fire Department's 130th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my mother, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 961–979 on Monday, October 5 through Thursday, October 18, 2007. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"Yea" on rollcall votes 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 980, 981, 982; and

"Nay" on rollcall votes 972, 979.

IN HONOR OF A YOUNG HERO,
JAZMYNE ROBINSON

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a special young hero in my district.

Jazmyne Robinson is only nine years old, yet when she found her two year old brother floating face down in the family swimming pool, she had the presence of mind to call her father for help and then immediately dial 911. Keeping her composure, she gave her address to the operator and remained on the phone until help arrived.

The unconscious two year old was rushed to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, where he made a full recovery after one month in a coma.

It is important that Jazmyne is recognized not only for her heroism, but so that her life-saving actions can set an example for others. Touched by Jazmyne's heroic deed, and her

baby brother's miraculous recovery, the Baby Otter Swim School in Fort Lauderdale presented the family with a gift package of free swim lessons and two water safety DVD's. The surviving toddler is no longer afraid of the water and loves to swim.

Unfortunately, not every story has a happy ending. The Center for Disease Control estimates that nine people die every day due to unintentional drowning. It is the second leading cause of death for children ages one to fourteen, and in California, Arizona and Florida, it is the number one cause of death in children under five.

The importance of drowning prevention and swimming pool safety cannot be emphasized enough. We must all work together to dramatically lower the drowning statistics in the United States and around the world. Jazmyne Robinson is an example that no one is too young or too small to benefit from pool safety and drowning education. Her heroic efforts were rewarded with a medal of honor from the Baby Otter Swim School at a ceremony with the Pembroke Pines Mayor and Broward County Commissioners.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1721, The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, a bill that I sponsored which seeks to prevent incidents like the one that would have taken the life of Jazmyne's brother had it not been for her heroism. Our nation is touched by Jazmyne's courage and fast action.

THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE,
USIP

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, 40 years ago, U.S. Senator Vance Hartke envisioned the creation of the U.S. Institute of Peace, USIP. Now, the realization of his dream is taking shape. We have broken ground on a new building to house the USIP on the consecrated ground of the National Mall in the Nation's capital between the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center. Senator Hartke's dream truly is a manifestation of the most ancient and ageless dream of humanity—enduring peace on earth. "I have the unshakable conviction," Senator Hartke declared when he introduced the legislation, "that we will have it within our power and capacity not only to end the Vietnam War, but the syndrome of war itself."

This center is not the only mark on democracy he has left behind. His son Jan continues to help shape the country in the finest tradition of his father in many matters, including efforts to stop global warming, itself a threat to long-term peace.

The USIP will not be a monument to an individual nor a memorial to a significant event in our Nation's past; instead, it will be a building dedicated to an idea and the future of all people. It will be a working building where scholars with different disciplines can sift through the dynamics of war and peace and gain insights that can help America and the world avoid unnecessary or accidental conflicts and wars. With its large auditorium, it will be a place where heads of state from many different lands and cultures will be able to address their own strategies for peace. Most of